

NEWS BRIEFING

A LOOK AT THIS MORNING'S HEADLINES

Beating victim files suit, claims music made the kids violent



(AP) — A law professor says a lawsuit claiming so-called death metal music drove four young men to bludgeon two Eugene convenience store clerks, killing one of them, has little chance of success.

Constitutional free speech guarantees are an almost impossible legal hurdle to get over, said David Schuman, an associate professor of law at the University of Oregon.

Donna Ream, the clerk who survived a vicious beating during an April 1994 Dari Mart robbery, filed an \$11 million lawsuit Monday against the bands and other defendants.

House committee chairman pleads guilty to mail fraud



WASHINGTON (AP) — Dan Rostenkowski, the once-powerful House committee chairman, pleaded guilty Tuesday to two mail fraud charges in a deal that will bring him a 17-month prison term.

The gruff, former head of the Ways and Means Committee entered his plea before U.S. District Judge Norma Holloway Johnson.

In return, prosecutors will recommend that the 68-year-old Chicago Democrat serve 17 months in prison and pay a \$100,000 fine.

Rostenkowski vowed two years ago to fight the charges.

Rebel fighting breaks out; U.S. evacuates Americans in capital



MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — The first U.S. helicopters flew into Monrovia on Tuesday and began evacuating Americans from the chaotic capital, which is in the grips of fierce rebel fighting.

Twenty-six Americans, including two children, were on the first flight to arrive late Tuesday in Freetown, Sierra Leone — a two-hour flight from Monrovia — U.S. officials said.

The fighting that broke out Saturday was the worst in Monrovia since 1993. Liberia, which was founded in 1847 by freed American slaves, has been wracked by civil war since 1990.

Neighbors: No on Amazon proposals

■ Community members say the housing unit move is not the best use of open land

By Brian Womack
Community Reporter

Citizens of the Jefferson and Westside neighborhoods rejected a suggestion to move the old Amazon Family Housing buildings to a site just south of the Lane County Fairgrounds Tuesday night.

Representatives from Amazon Community Housing (ACH) proposed moving the old Amazon buildings or constructing new units along with a recreational center at the site, located between Ohara School and the Lane County Fairgrounds on Madison Street from 16th to 17th Avenues.

The new complex would offer low-cost housing for students with families.

Amazon housing, located at 24th Avenue and Patterson Street, had some of its buildings demolished and six moved last year. About 20 buildings with 120 units still remain.

The site will probably be demolished this summer, said Mike Eyster, director of University housing. He said it would be up to the contractor that

wins the demolition bid to move or destroy the buildings. New University housing will be built in its place.

But the 17 neighborhood citizens gathered at the meeting were not at all eager to hand over this under-developed land for the proposal by ACH. No one spoke out in favor of the idea.

"We're going to be shoulder to shoulder with our neighbors pretty soon," said a member of the Jefferson neighborhood member. "I'd like to preserve open space. I was in support of Amazon Housing. It has done wonder things for the city, but I can't support that proposal."

"I'm strongly opposed to the idea," said another member of the Westside neighborhood. "I live about 30 feet from that site. The last thing we need is more buildings."

Jon Belcher, co-chair of the Jefferson Area Neighbors, said the proposal was the sixth one that had been made for the property.

Despite the response, Nancy Forrest, a member of ACH, said she will not give up looking for places to move the buildings.

"We are aggressively pursuing other sites," she said.

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